



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2006

SAN DIEGO CONVERTING TO STATEWIDE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT PROCESSING

Federally Mandated Conversion Takes Place March 1

Payment collection and processing for County of San Diego child support cases will shift to a statewide payment-processing center known as the California State Disbursement Unit (SDU) on March 1, 2006. This centralized payment processing system is the first step in the state's eventual conversion to a single statewide automation system for child support cases. Implementation of a statewide system is necessary to meet federal payment processing and automation requirements.

Prior to the conversion, each county child support agency collected and distributed payments to custodial parents in its caseload. As of March, payments received by the County of San Diego Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) will be forwarded to the SDU for processing and distribution.

Forwarding child support payments to the SDU during transition will cause some initial delay to when custodial parents are used to receiving their payments. Experience in other counties already on the SDU shows that delays should not exceed seven days. Since child support checks will be mailed from outside the county, this may also affect when payments are received. Payment delays will be reduced by summer 2006 when the SDU is fully operational statewide.

Individuals having questions regarding payment status may contact the DCSS office at 619-236-7600 (call 1-866-230-2273 from outside San Diego County).

Other child support program services will continue to be handled at the county level, including establishing, enforcing and modifying child support court orders, establishing paternity and locating noncustodial parents. San Diego DCSS collected a record \$161 million in child support payments last year.

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